



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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<http://ct.gov/dmv>



Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles
Commissioner Melody A. Currey
Transportation Committee Public Hearing
March 8, 2013

H.B. No. 6377 AN ACT CONCERNING ARREST POWERS OF MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTORS.

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and other members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 6377, AN ACT CONCERNING ARREST POWERS OF MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTORS.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) supports this legislation because it provides the necessary statutory protection for DMV Inspectors and increases public safety by expanding law enforcement presence in the state within existing resources.

DMV inspectors are certified officers and receive the same basic and review training as municipal officers at the Police Officer Standards and Training Academy (POST). Inspectors carry the same equipment, including firearms, as municipal and state police officers. Currently ten DMV inspectors are certified by POST as instructors in firearms; defensive tactics; use of force; shooting decisions; arrest and control; baton; OC spray; handcuffing; field training; hazardous materials; radar; motor vehicle law & enforcement; and vehicle stop tactics. They provide review training for DMV inspectors, municipal police officers and state troopers. DMV Inspectors also receive advanced training in drug interdiction techniques and carry specialized equipment which can detect certain radiological materials.

As you are aware, DMV Inspectors patrol the state's highways and staff the weigh stations. They are authorized to make arrests or issue citations for violations of any statute or regulation relating to motor vehicles. State law also adopts numerous federal motor carrier safety regulations which are enforced by Inspectors. Under state law, inspectors are allowed to use physical force in defense of a person and to use physical force to effect an arrest or prevent the escape from custody of a person whom he or she reasonably believes to have committed an offense. They are also authorized to use deadly physical force under specific circumstances involving felonies or an attempted felony in which serious physical injury is inflicted or threatened. It is illegal to interfere with or assault a DMV Inspector.

In the course of their workday, DMV inspectors detain persons wanted by other law enforcement agencies and turn over persons to law enforcement agencies whom they have probable cause to believe committed a crime. By providing the Inspectors this peace officer authority would allow Inspectors to take immediate action for any crime observed during the performance of their on-duty activities thereby enhancing public safety.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify in support of this bill.